

CONFIDENTIAL

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14 August 1958

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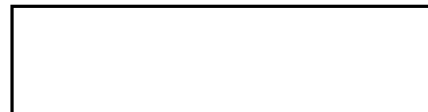
MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Request for Information
Concerning the Attack of J. Edward Johnston, Jr.
on U.S. Intelligence

1. Pursuant to your request, there is attached hereto a blind memorandum which we hope is suitable for dispatch to Senator Symington as per his conversation of 12 August 1958 with Mr. George Carey.

2. If there are any other details you wish to have included in the attachment, please advise. We have dealt with Iraq only briefly; it may deserve fuller treatment. If so, we felt you would wish to brief Senator Symington along the lines you have used with the several Congressional committees.

3. As a footnote to Iraq and the extensive press and Congressional criticism directed at the intelligence community, I must say that I have become somewhat alarmed at the prospect of a conclusion by the public that an intelligence agency is equipped with prescience and, thus, can predict all coups and their timing anywhere in the world. Needless to say, we try to predict coups, but there is some danger that some stations may react to the clamor by habitually predicting disaster, in the manner of Joe Alsop, to cover their number. I don't know whether we may expect members of the Congress to share our concern in this matter, but I felt I should express it to you.



Acting Deputy Director (Plans)

Attachment - as stated

cc - DDCI
Inspector General
Colonel Grogan
Mr. George G. Carey

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August 1958.

Under the circumstances, the substance of Johnston's allegations, which merely recirculate Amoss' favorite lines of attack against U.S. intelligence, requires no detailed refutation. It repeats material previously considered and reconsidered by various Congressional committees and Government departments. Some items were in no way subject to U.S. intervention or influence, as for example the cases of Dr. E. Herbert Norman, a Canadian official, or that of Mr. Bang-Jensen, a Danish citizen employed and discharged by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Others are simply contrary to the facts. No department or agency of the United States Government had anything whatever to do with Naguib's downfall at the hands of Gamal Abdel Nasser. As for the criticism of U.S. intelligence in Iraq, any surprise came in the timing of the coup. That plotting was underway was reported in detail over a considerable period of time and well-known to the U.S. Government.

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How Col. Amoss Works

Global Private Eye Serves Thrills to His 1000 Clients

(The first in a series)

By Edward T. Follard

Post Reporter

Col. Ulius L. Amoss, editor and director of field operations of what he terms a "private, world-wide intelligence service," broke off an exciting story about intrigue, shots in the dark, and the "escape" of Lavrenti Beria. He wanted to see about his mail.

Presently he was back behind his desk, at his home at Gibson Island, Md., holding up a gray envelope plastered with foreign stamps.

"This," he said, with a mysterious air, "is from a very great Russian expert."

Colonel Amoss (he holds that rank in the Air Force Reserve) has been described by an ecstatic reporter as "the world's leading private eye" and as one of "the greatest spies in history."

Government intelligence men have talked about him in less flattering terms, as Amoss himself wryly admits. A couple of recent published comments from unnamed Federal officials have it that Amoss is a "total loss" and that he was never known to be right.

Also, it is pointed out that Amoss may have caused serious Government concern

when he recently claimed his intelligence organization brought about the escape of Polish Lieut. Franciszek Jarecki and his Russian-made MIG-15 jet plane. By indicating the escape was part of a plot by an intelligence organization, Amoss conceivably made things harder for Denmark, where the MIG-15 was landed.

The Danes, facing Russian troops a few score miles away, would appear in the light, less of innocent bystanders than partners in a plot. Amoss is well aware of his critics and, ordinarily soft-spoken, grows vehement when he talks about them. He calls them "cowards" and "termites" who speak from behind the cloak of anonymity, and says they probably are jealous. He cites what he considers a long record for accurate predictions—"scoops" on Stalin's death and the outbreak of the Korean war, for example. (More of Amoss' reactions to his critics will appear in a later article).

But even his detractors acknowledge Amoss does have one gift. He produces romance, a much-desired and highly rewarded commodity. He seems to be able to satisfy a basic craving, nowhere more pronounced than among the media, business tycoons and executives, for melodrama in the international field.

Colonel Amoss gives the inside stuff from behind the Iron Curtain. He runs a lively and, it would seem, fool-proof guide service in this dark realm.

You get interesting reading if you subscribe to the colonel's intelligence service. You get a report from his "seldom-heard-from correspondent in the remote sub-Polar regions" that the Yakutsk Eskimos detest Russian Communists, or from his "very great expert on Russia" that there is bad trouble in Soviet guided missile production.

U. S. Can't Deny It

The Government intelligence agencies can't deny it — they can't say anything, since it is a prime rule of an intelligence service not to broadcast publicly what it knows and what it doesn't, what is correct and what is not.

In a world desperately alarmed by the Soviet menace, overridingly interested in what goes on behind the Iron Curtain and in the Communist underground, and vouchsafed almost no information about it, curiosity provides a seller's market.

And Colonel Amoss provides it. He is a man of many talents, spills, stealth and excitement. Physically and sartorially,

Colonel Amoss does not conform to the popular idea of a cloak-and-dagger man. He is 58, a 6-footer weighing 180 pounds, with thinning hair and a rather full face. He goes in for brown business tweeds and bow neckties, and is a cigarette smoker. He talks fluently, although sometimes cryptically; and if you are in an adventurous mood, he can make things seem very exciting indeed.

He states that about 1000 persons, mostly business and professional people, make up his International Service of Information Foundation (ISI). Collectively, they pay in \$25,000 a year for the service. Amoss sends them exciting letters with such items as Beria's "escape" and "the probable Soviet target date for war," and such stirring prose as:

"The heirs and would-be heirs to Red glory are shooting it out in the privacy of the Kremlin's noise-proof rooms."

Some Schemes Cost More

Sometimes Colonel Amoss launches schemes that require more money than is available to him in the ISI treasury. Thus, last September he got \$50,000 from millionaire C. L. D. N. Ryan on what he said he made clear to Ryan was an "outrageous gamble" for the purpose, as he put it, of helping dissident Soviet big-shots escape from behind the Iron Curtain. So far none has been helped to escape, and he acknowledges as much.

Earlier Colonel Amoss got \$7500 from a group of Maryland men, including former Gov. William Preston Lane, for the aforementioned scheme to get a Russian-made jet out of Poland.

Those engaged in undercover work for Uncle Sam say that Colonel Amoss appears to be one of the few intelligence agents in the world who talks openly about the information which he claims to have gathered.

Secrecy, they argue, is the very essence of successful intelligence work. How otherwise, they ask, are you going to protect your apparatus and the lives of your agents? And above all, they point out, you don't want the enemy to know what you know, or think you know, about him.

Hush-Hush Derided

Colonel Amoss, on the other hand, says there is entirely too much hush-hush about government intelligence work. Not only that, he thinks that Uncle Sam ought to support "private enterprise in intelligence."

Colonel Amoss some day will be

even better known than Allen Dulles, America's No. 1 intelligence official. Dulles doesn't talk publicly about his undercover work. Nobody knows what his outfit, the Central Intelligence Agency, is doing except President Eisenhower and a few others at the top.

For all the public knows, Dulles may be entirely ignorant of the fate of Lavrenti Beria, boss of Russia's secret police under Stalin, who was marked for liquidation by Stalin's successor, Premier Georgi Malenkov. Dulles either does not know or isn't saying if he does know whether Beria is dead or alive, inside Russia or outside of it.

Not so Colonel Amoss. He says there is no doubt in his mind about Beria's status. He says that Beria has escaped from Russia—that his agents have told him so.

"Is he alive?" the colonel was asked.

"Well, last week he was alive," was the reply in a recent interview.

Colonel Amoss said he was waiting right now for "instructions" as to whether he should dash over to Europe to pick up some Soviet intelligence that would be turned over to him if Beria gives the word.

Now in New York

Those who subscribe to his ISI service get up-to-the minute word of what goes on in Moscow. For instance, Colonel Amoss informed his clients on September 14, 1953, that Andrei Vishinsky is doomed—marked for a purge. His report suggested that even Vishinsky might not know it, for he said:

"Vishinsky should quickly seek political asylum. A week, a month, six months may be too late."

Vishinsky is in New York, where he is serving as Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

One of Colonel Amoss' latest intelligence "scoops," sent out under date of October 28, is a shocker.

"This is a STOP, LOOK and LISTEN letter," he tells subscribers. "Within months, the contents of this letter will be carried by the press wire services of the Nation."

"1959 is the probable Soviet target date for WAR..."

Sometimes Colonel Amoss has hard luck in his timing.

For example, on last August 8 Premier Malenkov announced that "the United States no longer has the monopoly of the hydrogen bomb," and went on to say that Russia had mastered the art of that super weapon.

(COVER)

Colonel Amoss' intelligence apparatus evidently didn't believe it. The colonel sent out an "ISI Telegram" dated from Aachen, Germany, August 11, and signed by Janisi, presumably an agent.

The telegram said:

"Malenkov hydrogen - bomb claim is witless hysterical propaganda.

"America explodes, then talks. Malenkov talks, doesn't explode."

Unhappily for Agent Janisi (and also Colonel Amoss) Premier Malenkov backed up his talk with a blast that shook the chancelleries of the Free World. On August 19 Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, announced that the Russians had indeed touched off a hydrogen explosion on August 12.

Colonel Amoss says he set up his intelligence network back in 1946. However, he did not break into the newspapers in a big way until his name was linked with the escape of Polish Lieut. Marecki and with reports of Beria's escape.

Colonel Amoss is president and editor-in-chief of ISI. His organization, he says, engages the services of 12 intelligence experts abroad, two of them among the world's greatest. He says the average pay for these men is less than \$50 a month, although the top men get close to \$300 a month. Feeding reports to the 12 agents, he says, is a volunteer army of 7000 persons.

How is all this financed? The answer, according to Colonel Amoss, is the membership of the ISI Foundation—those 1000 business and professional men who pay in \$25 a year each. From time to time, they get the international low-down from Colonel Amoss in his "general report" and "special letter."

Occasionally, as has been said, he comes up with a scheme that requires big money, as in the case where Clendenin Ryan came through with \$50,000.

Ryan, husky heir to the great fortune of Thomas Fortune Ryan, once was secretary to the late Mayor Fiorella La Guardia of New York. Thereafter he battled with Mayor William O'Dwyer, underworld king Frank Costello and others.

Colonel Amoss told about Ryan's contribution in an ISI letter dated September 28. He had been recounting his trip to Europe, Beria's "escape," and his report to the United States Government about his talks with men purporting to be Beria's representatives.

ISI subscribers, "had been the exploration of the possibilities for escape of other high-ranking Soviet personalities, based on allegations made by certain agents.

"It would have been improper for the ISI Foundation to finance such an operation from its meager funds. It would have been downright dangerous to use the established overseas ISI network in such an operation for fear that the proposals were fakes planted for the purpose of making contact with and identifying ISI personnel.

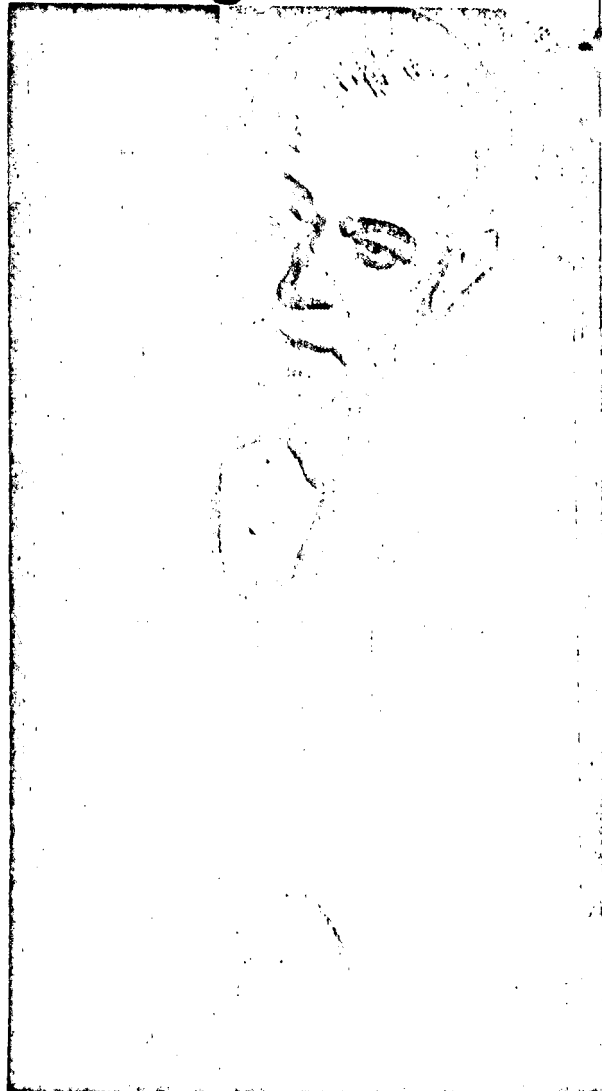
"It was clear that it would be necessary hastily to create a temporary organization which, among other things, would 'tail' the members of the far-reaching gang purporting to be in touch with Red Army dissidents. It would cost about \$50,000.

"So I looked for an American, alive to the Soviet Communist danger, who might be willing to back the hazardous enterprise. It was a long-odds gamble—but, if successful, would produce devastating results that might further lessen the danger of war and would certainly circumscribe Soviet existing cold-war operations.

"Mr. Clendenin Ryan was suggested to me as an alert patriot who had been known to support proper efforts to check Communist advance. I saw him; told him that the project was an 'outrageous gamble' but that if it won, the results would be a major contribution to the safety of the Free World. Apparently, Mr. Ryan believed that the chance of such important results justified the long odds, and he sent his check to the ISI Foundation to support the risky enterprise."

The hoped-for "devastating results" of a walk-out of disenchanted Russians have not been realized. But then, as Amoss told Ryan, it was an "outrageous gamble" to start with. He says the \$50,000 still is being used to finance a provisional organization in Europe—one to "tail" those claiming to be in touch with Soviet dissidents.

In his letter of September 28, Colonel Amoss did not tell his \$25-a-year subscribers what he revealed in the November 8 issue of the American Weekly. In a featured article, Amoss disclosed that the \$50,000 he had asked Ryan for was for effecting the escape of Lieut. Gen. Vassily Stalin.



By Harry Goodwin—The Washington Post

Colonel Ulius L. Amoss, mainspring of what he calls a "private world-wide intelligence service," narrates in his office some hair-raising stories of undercover work abroad.

It's a terrific story as Amoss tells it in the newspaper feature magazine, under the title, "I Tried to Kidnap Stalin's Son." ISI subscribers would have enjoyed it—"stocky, grim, nervous" conspirators, a red-haired beauty who was the mistress of one of them, an agent scooting back and forth across the mine fields into Czechoslovakia. Then, at the last minute, the very night of a crucial rendezvous at the border, word came that the Russians were baiting Amoss, intending to assassinate Vassily Stalin, kidnap Amoss, brainwash him and Heaven knows what else.

Anyway, the deal didn't come off.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICES OF FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

CABLE ADDRESS: INFORM BALTIMORE
TELEPHONE: BALTIMORE 7-3626219 W. MONUMENT STREET
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

28 September 1953

ISI SPECIAL LETTER

L. P. Beria has escaped. As early as 21 July (see ISI Special letter 21 and 23 July) ISI had good reason to believe that the dread police chief had escaped his doom and had safely made his way to the mountain fastnesses of Transcaucasia.

Now, ISI is convinced that the remnant of Georgian domination of the Supreme Soviet has successfully marched through Georgia.

ISI's conclusion on two things: A dispatch from

SECRET

THIS IS STRICTLY FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

6 March 1953

The now celebrated delivery of a Soviet MIG jet plane at Bornholm, Denmark, was the accomplishment of your ISI.

Working for 5 years on the project, it often seemed to the undersigned Editor and Director of Field Operations that it was an impossible task - and it was a task that cost several lives before its accomplishment.

This letter is a boast - but justifiable because it is not probable that ISI will receive any thanks. But you are entitled to know the facts.

ANEX

17 June 1953

SPECIAL ISI LETTER

GEORGI MALENKOV IS DEAD. This is a rumor from ISI sources - repeat, this is a rumor. It is not an established fact. What is a fact is that the pudgy semi-dictator has been held incommunicado for more than a month. For 30 days he has not been heard, he has not been seen, he has not been read.

A fierce, possibly bloody, tussle is under way in the Kremlin. As ISI has long told you, Russia's peasants and workers are ready to rise. As ISI has told you, satellite workers are ready to rise - as you read today in the press, they are rising!

This is unfortunate. It is not the time to rise. Our country, or so ISI believes (without having any information from U. S. official sources), has not formulated a firm policy; we do not know and our enslaved friends cannot know just what the deal is.

With acceleration, possibly even a change.

MALENKOV HYDROGEN-BOMB CLAIM IS WITLESS HYSTERICAL PROPAGANDA.

AMERICA EXPLODES, THEN TALKS. MALENKOV TALKS, DOESN'T EXPLODE.

By cable from London
3 August 1953

JANESI

I left Düsseldorf amid blazing guns (if one pistol and two shots can be so described) bringing with me critically important original papers uncovering the "desinforma" and also the following report which has been confirmed here.

I have received confirmation that Beria was axed primarily because the new Soviet leaders were shocked to find that he was unable to confirm that Russian A-bombs and guided missiles were equal, either quantitatively or qualitatively, to the American. Consequently, the typical Soviet reward for failure was meted out to Beria upon discovery of the bluff - an accusation of sabotage. However, the imminent threat was discovered by Beria's massive intelligence apparatus which enabled him to fade.

How Col. Amoss Works

Global Private Eye Dwells
In Constant Air of Mystery

By Edward T. Folliard

Post Reporter
(Second in a Series)

Members of the International Services of Information Foundation, a private intelligence service headed by Col. Ulius L. Amoss of Gibson Island, Md., get exciting reading for the \$25 which they contribute annually.

A letter from Amoss to ISI members, dated last June 17, begins:

"GEORGI MALENKOV IS DEAD"

This was news, a real scoop.

But in the next sentence, Amoss hastens to add, "This is a rumor from ISI sources—repeat, this is a rumor. It is not a fact."

Even though there are occasional letdowns, Amoss' reports keep the adventurous spirit running high. Sometimes, people who receive ISI material must fear for a time that the colonel is a goner. Very often, however, it turns out that he wasn't in any danger after all, and is safe, sound and ready for further excitement.

Message Produced Thrill

On July 5, under a dateline reading "By courier from Munich," Colonel Amoss gave his ISI subscribers a thrill with this message:

"I am a virtual prisoner in a Munich hotel. I am not sure that the care 'they' take of me is due to consideration for my safety—or theirs. 'They' even post guards. 'They' won't permit me to go out without protection—and never at night. But when I went to parts I shouldn't mention, they relaxed their guard, apparently considering a danger zone safe enough. It was!

"Last night I returned without having experienced any excitement. But, once in my room, a series of 'shots' startled me: through my window, red flame glowed briefly. I am ashamed to say that I shouted to my friend and personal security officer, 'Keep away from that window!' I am ashamed, because we discovered that the 'shot' was firecracker explosions, set off by German children in honor of our Fourth of July."

After this let-down, Colonel Amoss hurried on in his ISI letter to tell about his meeting with some mysterious members of an "elite underground system."

He also had something to say about his meetings with mysterious men in a room at Gibson Island.

Island Houses GHQ

An 11-room rented house on the island, located on Chesapeake Bay about 23 miles southwest of Annapolis, is the general headquarters of Colonel Amoss' ISI network, although the business office is at 219 W. Monument st., Baltimore.

He is a year-round resident of the island, along with his vivacious English-born wife, the former Veronica Grogan. They met in Cairo during World War II when both were in intelligence work, he for Gen. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan's Office of Strategic Services and she for the British.

A visitor calling on Col. Amoss on Gibson Island, as all visitors to the privately-owned island, must first be cleared at the gate. Up the road a way is the colonel's house. Guests are taken to his office, just off the living room. It has an impressive atmosphere, suggesting that its occupant has been around.

The walls are covered with autographed pictures. One bears the inscription, "For my friend, Ulius Amoss, Franklin D. Roosevelt." (FDR autographed it when he was Governor of New York). There are two photographs of Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, one of the time when Col. Amoss served under him as

deputy chief of staff of the United States Ninth Air Force. One reads: "To Pete (Amoss' nickname) with sincere thanks for his loyal support and excellent counsel, Hoyt S. Vandenberg."

Books Indicate Interest

On the bookshelves are volumes that bespeak Col. Amoss' deep interest in espionage: Rebecca West's "The Meaning of Treason," "Stalin by Trotsky," "The Russian Menace to Europe," "The Pattern for World Revolution," "No Secret is Safe," and "Handbook for Spies."

According to a sketch in the International Who's Who, Amoss was born in St. Louis 58 years ago last July 28. He was a student at the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts in Baltimore. He was a press agent for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1915-16, and after that was sales manager for a Baltimore firm.

In World War I, he was a YMCA secretary with the 78th Division. He was also a YMCA secretary in Greece during a part of the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-21. Thereafter, in 1920-24, he was adviser to the Greek General Staff, a job that seems to have laid the groundwork for his later career as an intelligence man.

Returning to this country from Greece, Amoss was an exporter in New York. He also served with firms like the Condossis Tobacco Co., and the Gramtrade International Corporation.

Served With OSS
He won his rank in World War II, serving with the Air Force and OSS, and is now in the Air Force Reserve.

How did he come to set up his intelligence network?

Well, he explained, he had long felt that the trouble with secret intelligence was that it was too secret. Also, he had made this discovery: that by the time the raw material was processed—correlated with other intelligence, appraised and edited—it often was no longer intelligence but history.

Moreover, Col. Amoss said, he concluded that the American people as a whole were getting no benefit from our official intelligence, except when it was decided to leak something to them so as to formulate public opinion.

Once Col. Amoss gets going about his agents, his annual trips to Europe and the flow of intelligence reports to Gibson Island, things begin to conform to the popular notion of espionage.

Take, for example, his trip to Europe last summer. He said that he went behind the Iron Curtain and that it was "a simple operation." But his most exciting adventure took place, not in Communist territory, but on this side of the Curtain—in Duesseldorf, Germany.

Someone Shoots at Him

One night he was on his way to the airport to fly to London, he said, when he realized he was being trailed by somebody in another car. A shot came from the pursuer. Then the car drew alongside and there was another shot.

"I got out of the cab," Col. Amoss said, "caught another one and went to the railroad station. There I got a third shot and drove to the airport."

"When I calmed down, I concluded that the shooting was just a demonstration, something to impress me, not an attempt to kill me. Neither shot hit the cab."

He said that just before this he had been talking to a group of men in West Germany. They described themselves as dissidents from the Red Army, but he suspected them of being Soviet agents. He believed that they were responsible for the shots. It was all, he said, an example of "the devious workings of the Slavic mind."

Curiously enough, either Amoss got his cities in Germany mixed up (something an intelligence agent should do only rarely, if at all), or else exactly the same thing happened to him in Munich. For in a piece in The American Weekly on November 8, Amoss describes the identical incident of shots, transfers from one cab to another, etc., but as happening in Munich, not Duesseldorf, just after an abortive effort to kidnap Vasily Stalin.

Letter from Duesseldorf

Col. Amoss showed the reporter a letter he sent to ISI members last summer. The dateline was Duesseldorf; the date July 21.

"Beria," he had written, "has not been arrested. He is in hiding. This is the belief of an always reliable ISI source. This is the conviction of another ISI source, not always reliable."

Col. Amoss, bringing the reporter up to date, was much more positive—much more emphatic. Right now, he said, Beria definitely is out of Russia and is alive, at least as of

(COVER)

He then went on to tell of an adventure that befell him in Munich last summer, saying:

"A man came to me. He represented himself as a major in the Russian Security Police. He said he was representing Beria, and presented a card signed with Beria's name. He said he had been authorized to ask me whether Beria, if he escaped would get sanctuary anywhere in the West.

"I said I couldn't give him an official answer. But I said that if Beria was willing to give information, unquestionably he would get sanctuary.

Major Was 'Satisfied'

"The major said, 'Well, I'm satisfied,' and left."

Colonel Amoss said he could state as "a fact" that Beria sent five of his most trusted lieutenants out of the country when he got worried about his own life.

"They had instructions," he said, "that if anything happened to him (Beria) they were to turn papers over to Western agents.

"Beria himself faded. He went to the mountains of Transcaucasia, of which his native Georgia is a part. It was then that the Kremlin denounced him. He eventually got out of Transcaucasia.

"Now evidently he was still in the mountains when this major called on me in Munich. At least, I believe he was. Since Beria got out, additional facts have been learned.

"They have taken a dummy Beria from Tiflis, capital of Georgia, and he has been trained and secretly sent to Moscow. He is being held in a prison operated by the Defense Department, not the MVD. The trial material for this dummy Beria has been completed, and orders have been issued to send him back to Georgia to stand trial. I say they have been issued; whether they have actually been sent, I don't know.

Comic Feature Related

"There is a comic feature to all this. Beria has learned about the scheme. He doesn't like it. That is why he sent



Colonel Ullus I. Amoss, head of a private intelligence network, relaxes at his Gibson

Island, Md., home. The photos are mostly of military men with whom Amoss served.

the major to see me. If they go through with the farcical trial, he will tell his lieutenants to turn over the papers to Western agents.

"I am waiting now on instructions as to whether I am to go over and get them or not."

He said the Beria papers "allegedly" contained information about Russia's atomic energy program.

If it turns out that Beria really has escaped—and especially if he unmasks himself somewhere in the West—Amoss will be a hero. If, on the other hand, the Russians announce that they have executed Beria, Amoss will be able to point out that long ago he predicted that a "dummy" would be put on trial and executed.

TOMORROW: Lieutenant

How Col. Amoss Works

Global Private Eye Did—
Or Didn't—Help Pole's Flight

By Edward T. Folliard

Post Reporter

(The Last of a Series)

Col. Ulius L. Amoss, director of operations of a private intelligence-gathering organization called International Services of Information Foundation (ISI), first gained national newspaper notice in connection with the flight of a Russian MIG-15 to the West.

A Polish lieutenant, Franciszek Jarecki, escaped with the undamaged jet, said to be the first to fall into Allied hands. The story published back in March was that former Gov. Preston Lane of Maryland and some others, working with Colonel Amoss, put up something like \$10,000 to bring about the coup. (Colonel Amoss said that the sum actually was \$7500.)

Lieutenant Jarecki, when he visited Washington in May, was emphatic in denying that he got any American help in his escape. He said he had first heard rumors of such help when he was in Copenhagen.

"I got no help from anyone," he said. "Even my dearest friends didn't know what I was going to do."

Colonel Amoss said the Polish flier was telling the truth as he saw it.

Colonel Amoss has sharply revised the story of his part

in Lieutenant Jarecki's escape. At first, in a letter to ISI subscribers, he stated flatly, as a "hoast"—the word is Amoss—that the delivery of the MIG was "the accomplishment" of his intelligence network.

Some time later, the claims were considerably milder.

Now, after the passage of some weeks, Colonel Amoss contents himself with the more modest claim that his ISI created "a psychosis of escape" among Polish fliers.

"Caught Us Off Base"

"Jarecki had never been in touch with my agents," he said. "The story broke very unfortunately and caught us off base. I could show you a telegram that arrived one hour after Lieutenant Jarecki landed on the island of Bornholm."

"If Lieutenant Jarecki wants to say I had nothing to do with his escape," Colonel Amoss said "I won't challenge him."

Amoss' first "secret" letter, boasting of the MIG escape, got into the hands of newspapermen, naturally, and soon the story was on the wires. They learned that former Governor Lane and others had turned over the money to

Former Governor Lane is reluctant to talk for publication about the matter now, but he told The Post this:

"We did put up expense money for the purpose of getting a MIG out. One came out. As a matter of fact, another has come out of the same hole."

There was some cause for worry about the original story, in its possible effect on the Danish Government, and on the efforts of American experts to examine the MIG that was flown to Denmark's island of Bornholm.

Chances Improved

The chances of Americans going over the jet plane, it would seem, would be better if it appeared that Lieutenant Jarecki had flown out as he insisted that he did — on his own and without any outside aid. Denmark would thus not be in the position of seeming to have been part of a plot. Conversely, Denmark would be less likely to cooperate if she felt that she was subject to a Russian accusation of aiding and abetting a scheme engineered by an American intelligence organization — even a private one.

In an interview, Colonel Amoss was reminded that some people are skeptical about him.

"That's an understatement," he said, somewhat wryly.

He showed he was well aware of what had been said about him. He referred to a recent article in a news magazine wherein, he said, an unidentified official of the Defense Department said he was "a total loss" and an unidentified official of the Central Intelligence Agency was quoted as saying he "never knew Amoss to be right."

Tells Off Detractors

Colonel Amoss, up to this point, good-humored despite the fact that he had undergone dental surgery the day before, now girded himself to tell off his detractors, saying:

"Any so-called official of the United States Government who, under the cloak of anonymity, attacks the competence or reputation of an American citizen is at the least a coward."

"And what the official in question might have meant was not that he had never known me to be right, but that he had never known me to be left."

"I forecast the outbreak in Korea a month before it came. And my forecast was right within two days."

"I was right within a week in saying when the Chinese would come into the Korean war. And somebody in the Central Intelligence Agency was telling MacArthur that the Chinese were not coming into the Korean war."

"On January 2, 1953, I stated in writing that Stalin was through and that the Red Army had taken control. The people of the United States didn't hear that from the CIA. They had to wait until March when Moscow itself announced it and said that Amoss was right."

"I predicted the Mau Mau outbreaks in Africa 18 months before they came."

"There are dozens and dozens of these things, but I don't want to burden your article."

Hide Behind Anonymity

"You hear a lot about character assassination, but the people they attack the most for this are speaking publicly under their own names. There is an awful lot of fuss about McCarthy, Jenner and McCarran, accusing them of character assassination. But they speak out under their own names."

"Here you have men hiding behind anonymity and making an attack upon a patriotic enterprise."

"I have been shot at, threatened, and this termite is sitting behind the safety of anonymity, sniping at a private citizen trying to help the country."

Colonel Amoss said he didn't know what was aggravating his critics—whether they were "just eaten up by jealousy," or what.

"I don't presume to be a genius," he went on. "I wouldn't even claim to be a Russian expert. But I've got Russian experts working for me, and they make me look good."

His attention was called to his earlier remark about the ISI being "a patriotic enterprise."

Certainly he thought it was, he said, and went on to add:

"I wouldn't be taking this financial beating if I didn't. I've spent my money and my wife's money in a small effort to contribute to the safety of the United States."

Hopes for Salary

He said he received no salary from the ISI and that the organization paid only 3 percent of his travel expenses.

At another point, he said:

"I hope one day to get a salary from the foundation. I've made myself broke in this thing."

Reading several of Amoss' letters and reports to ISI members is a pretty exciting business.

You find out, for example, that "Pontecorvo's (Dr. Bruno Pontecorvo, the Italian scientist who went behind the Iron Curtain) 'Cosmic Ray' does not work against high-flying planes." This "Cosmic Ray," Amoss explains, "is a combination of negative and positive electrical impulses supposed to reduce a plane to a cinder at the apex of the joined beams."

There is other comforting information. As of last June 30, "European intelligence experts do not believe that Russia has an effective atom bomb."

There is evidence of ISI's effectiveness, too. Amoss reported by cable from London on July 12 that ISI's "revelation of the rumors concerning Malenkov's fate in a previous article was sensationally received overseas and widely disseminated. The story forced the Red authorities to produce or, perhaps, reproduce him." But, "liberated or recreated, Malenkov is not long for this world."

In March, 1952, ISI reported that Stalin was being advised by the Politburo to retire, and said that the need to protect his health from overwork would be used as the "official pretext." A month later, Amoss was still warning his readers against "fake stories of Stalin's ill health."

(OVER)

CPYRGHT

that "these are times for cool heads and accurate appraisal of Soviet abilities."

Then, on August 11, comforting news came from agent Janisi in Aachen: "Supreme Soviet secretly decided abandon further armed aggression for the present."

"Preparations Intensified"

Similarly, on September 14, Amoss told his subscribers, "Soviet preparations for a change-over from military aggression to world revolution are being intensified and will be greatly expanded."

But on October 26, the word was: "Soviet Russia is flexing her military muscles."

And two days later, "Soviet war preparations must be taken seriously. 1959 is a possible target date."

ISI subscribers received sound advice from the colonel last March 4: "Meanwhile—don't believe anything you read about Soviet Russia as sure."

The Post reporter, in interviewing Colonel Amoss in his Gibson Island office, happened to pick up an old special letter. He thought for a moment that he had found evidence that the ISI chief was fallible, just like ordinary folk.

The intelligence item, which Colonel Amoss sent out in March, 1952, said that Stalin was going to retire and be succeeded by Molotov.

Had he stubbed his toe on that one? Had one of his agents overseas, perhaps, passed on some misinformation?

"No," Colonel Amoss said very seriously. "That really was the plan, but it went awry."

Insight on Changes

But by January, Amoss revealed that Stalin had suffered a stroke, and has been boasting of this three-month beat on the CIA ever since.

Amoss' reports give one an insight on how quickly and erratically plans change inside the Kremlin.

For example, early this year, on January 21, Amoss reported from London, "No war for a long time—except in various areas."

But only a month later, in an "Urgent" letter, he disclosed: "The next ten months will be critical—dangerous. According to present plan: Soviet Russia will mobilize her armed forces on a war basis within this period. THIS WILL BE A BLUFF (to frighten Western nations into pressuring America to deal with the Reds). But—the bluff may miscarry." The colonel warns

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How Col. Amoss Works

Global Private Eye Serves Thrills to His 1000 Clients

(The first in a series)

By Edward T. Folliard
Post Reporter

Col. Ulius L. Amoss, editor and director of field operations of what he terms a "private, world-wide intelligence service," broke off an exciting story about intrigue, shots in the dark, and the "escape" of Lavrenti Beria. He wanted to see about his mail.

Presently he was back behind his desk, at his home at Gibson Island, Md., holding up a gray envelope plastered with foreign stamps.

"This," he said, with a mysterious air, "is from a very great Russian expert."

Colonel Amoss (he holds that rank in the Air Force Reserve) has been described by an ecstatic reporter as "the world's leading private eye" and as one of "the greatest spies in history."

Government intelligence men have talked about him in less flattering terms, as Amoss himself wryly admits. A couple of recent published comments from unnamed Federal officials have it that Amoss is a "total loss" and that he was never known to be right.

Also, it is pointed out that Amoss may have caused serious Government concern

when he recently claimed his intelligence organization brought about the escape of Polish Lieut. Franciszek Jarecki and his Russian-made MIG-15 jet plane. By indicating the escape was part of a plot by an intelligence organization, Amoss conceivably made things harder for Denmark, where the MIG-15 was landed. The Danes, facing Russian troops a few score miles away, would appear in the light, less of innocent bystanders than partners in a plot.

Amoss is well aware of his critics and, ordinarily soft-spoken, grows vehement when he talks about them. He calls them "cowards" and "termites" who speak from behind the cloak of anonymity, and says they probably are jealous. He cites what he considers a long record for accurate predictions—"scoops" on Stalin's death and the outbreak of the Korean war, for example. (More of Amoss' reactions to his critics will appear in a later article.)

But even his detractors acknowledge Amoss does have one gift. He produces romance, a much-desired and highly rewarded commodity. He seems to be able to satisfy a basic craving, nowhere more pronounced than among Americans

business tycoons and executives, for melodrama in the international field.

Colonel Amoss gives the inside stuff from behind the Iron Curtain. He runs a lively and, it would seem, fool-proof guide service in this dark realm.

You get interesting reading if you subscribe to the colonel's intelligence service. You get a report from his "seldom-heard-from correspondent in the remote sub-Polar regions" that the Yakutsk Eskimos detest Russian Communists, or from his "very great expert on Russia" that there is bad trouble in Soviet guided missile production.

U. S. Can't Deny It

The Government intelligence agencies can't deny it—they can't say anything, since it is a prime rule of an intelligence service not to broadcast publicly what it knows and what it doesn't, what is correct and what is not.

In a world desperately alarmed by the Soviet menace, overridingly interested in what goes on behind the Iron Curtain and in the Communist underground, and vouchsafed almost no information about it, curiosity provides a seller's market.

And Colonel Amoss provides it. The way things are going, Colonel Amoss some day will be

Colonel Amoss does not conform to the popular idea of a cloak-and-dagger man. He is 58, a 6-footer weighing 180 pounds, with thinning hair and a rather full face. He goes in for brown business tweeds and bow neckties, and is a cigarette smoker. He talks fluently, although sometimes cryptically; and if you are in an adventurous mood, he can make things seem very exciting indeed.

He states that about 1000 persons, mostly business and professional people, make up his International Service of Information Foundation (ISI). Collectively, they pay in \$25,000 a year for the service. Amoss sends them exciting letters with such items as Beria's "escape" and "the probable Soviet target date for war," and such stirring prose as:

"The heirs and would-be heirs to Red glory are shooting it out in the privacy of the Kremlin's noise-proof rooms."

Some Schemes Cost More

Sometimes Colonel Amoss launches schemes that require more money than is available to him in the ISI treasury. Thus, last September he got \$50,000 from millionaire Clendenin Ryan on what he said he made clear to Ryan was an "outrageous gamble" for the purpose, as he put it, of helping dissident Soviet big-shots escape from behind the Iron Curtain. So far none has been helped to escape, and he acknowledges as much.

Earlier Colonel Amoss got \$7500 from a group of Maryland men, including former Gov. William Preston Lane, for the aforementioned scheme to get a Russian-made jet out of Poland.

Those engaged in undercover work for Uncle Sam say that Colonel Amoss appears to be one of the few intelligence agents in the world who talks openly about the information which he claims to have gathered.

Secrecy, they argue, is the very essence of successful intelligence work. How otherwise, they ask, are you going to protect your apparatus and the lives of your agents? And above all, they point out, you don't want the enemy to know what you know, or think you know, about him.

Hush-Hush Derided

Colonel Amoss, on the other hand, says there is entirely too much hush-hush about government intelligence work. Not only that, he thinks that Uncle Sam ought to support "private enterprise in intelligence."

The way things are going, Colonel Amoss some day will be

even better known than Allen Dulles, America's No. 1 intelligence official. Dulles doesn't talk publicly about his undercover work. Nobody knows what his outfit, the Central Intelligence Agency, is doing except President Eisenhower and a few others at the top.

For all the public knows, Dulles may be entirely ignorant of the fate of Lavrenti Beria, boss of Russia's secret police under Stalin, who was marked for liquidation by Stalin's successor, Premier Georgi Malenkov. Dulles either does not know or isn't saying if he does know whether Beria is dead or alive, inside Russia or outside of it.

Not so Colonel Amoss. He says there is no doubt in his mind about Beria's status. He says that Beria has escaped from Russia—that his agents have told him so.

"Is he alive?" the colonel was asked.

"Well, last week he was alive," was the reply in a recent interview.

Colonel Amoss said he was waiting right now for "instructions" as to whether he should dash over to Europe to pick up some Soviet intelligence that would be turned over to him if Beria gives the word.

Now in New York

Those who subscribe to his ISI service get up-to-the minute word of what goes on in Moscow. For instance, Colonel Amoss informed his clients on September 14, 1953, that Andrei Vishinsky is doomed—marked for a purge. His report suggested that even Vishinsky might not know it, for he said:

"Vishinsky should quickly seek political asylum. A week, a month, six months may be too late."

Vishinsky is in New York, where he is serving as Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

One of Colonel Amoss' latest intelligence "scoops," sent out under date of October 28, is a shocker.

"This is a STOP, LOOK and LISTEN letter," he tells subscribers. "Within months, the contents of this letter will be carried by the press wire services of the Nation."

"1959 is the probable Soviet target date for WAR..."

Sometimes Colonel Amoss has hard luck in his timing.

For example, on last August 8 Premier Malenkov announced that "the United States no longer has the monopoly of the hydrogen bomb," and went on to say that Russia had mastered the production of that super weapon.

Colonel Amoss' intelligence apparatus evidently didn't believe it. The colonel sent out an "ISI Telegram" dated from Aachen, Germany, August 11, and signed by Janisi, presumably an agent.

The telegram said:

"Malenkov hydrogen - bomb claim is witless hysterical propaganda.

"America explodes, then talks. Malenkov talks, doesn't explode."

Unhappily for Agent Janisi (and also Colonel Amoss) Premier Malenkov backed up his talk with a blast that shook the chancellories of the Free World. On August 19 Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, announced that the Russians had indeed touched off a hydrogen explosion on August 12.

Colonel Amoss says he set up his intelligence network back in 1946. However, he did not break into the newspapers in a big way until his name was linked with the escape of Polish Lieut. Jarecki and with reports of Beria's escape.

Colonel Amoss is president and editor-in-chief of ISI. His organization, he says, engages the services of 12 intelligence experts abroad, two of them among the world's greatest. He says the average pay for these men is less than \$50 a month, although the top men get close to \$300 a month. Feeding reports to the 12 agents, he says, is a volunteer army of 7000 persons.

How is all this financed? The answer, according to Colonel Amoss, is the membership of the ISI Foundation—those 1000 business and professional men who pay in \$25 a year each. From time to time, they get the international low-down from Colonel Amoss in his "general report" and "special letter."

Occasionally, as has been said, he comes up with a scheme that requires big money, as in the case where Clendenin Ryan came through with \$50,000.

Ryan, husky heir to the great fortune of Thomas Fortune Ryan, once was secretary to the late Mayor Fiorella La Guardia of New York. Thereafter he battled with Mayor William O'Dwyer, underworld king Frank Costello and others.

Colonel Amoss told about Ryan's contribution in an ISI letter dated September 28. He had been recounting his trip to Europe, Beria's "escape," and his report to the United States Government about his talks with men purporting to be Beria's representatives.

told ISI subscribers, "had been the exploration of the possibilities for escape of other high-ranking Soviet personalities, based on allegations made by certain agents.

"It would have been improper for the ISI Foundation to finance such an operation from its meager funds. It would have been downright dangerous to use the established overseas ISI network in such an operation for fear that the proposals were fakes planted for the purpose of making contact with and identifying ISI personnel.

"It was clear that it would be necessary hastily to create a temporary organization which, among other things, would 'tail' the members of the far-reaching gang purporting to be in touch with Red Army dissidents. It would cost about \$50,000.

"So I looked for an American, alive to the Soviet Communist danger, who might be willing to back the hazardous enterprise. It was a long-odds gamble—but, if successful, would produce devastating results that might further lessen the danger of war and would certainly circumscribe Soviet existing cold-war operations.

"Mr. Clendenin Ryan was suggested to me as an alert patriot who had been known to support proper efforts to check Communist advance. I saw him; told him that the project was an 'outrageous gamble' but that if it won, the results would be a major contribution to the safety of the Free World. Apparently, Mr. Ryan believed that the chance of such important results justified the long odds, and he sent his check to the ISI Foundation to support the risky enterprise."

The hoped-for "devastating results" of a walk-out of disenchanted Russians have not been realized. But then, as Amoss told Ryan, it was an "outrageous gamble" to start with. He says the \$50,000 still is being used to finance a provisional organization in Europe—one to "tail" those claiming to be in touch with Soviet dissidents.

In his letter of September 28, Colonel Amoss did not tell his \$25-a-year subscribers what he revealed in the November 8 issue of the American Weekly. In a featured article, Amoss disclosed that the \$50,000 he had asked Ryan for was for effecting the escape of Lieut. Gen. Vassily Stalin.



By Harry Goodwin—The Washington Post

Colonel Ulius L. Amoss, mainspring of what he calls a "private world-wide intelligence service," narrates in his office some hair-raising stories of undercover work abroad.

It's a terrific story as Amoss tells it in the newspaper feature magazine, under the title, "I Tried to Kidnap Stalin's Son." ISI subscribers would have enjoyed it—"stocky, grim, nervous" conspirators, a red-haired beauty who was the mistress of one of them, an agent scooting back and forth across the mine fields into Czechoslovakia. Then, at the last minute, the very night of a crucial rendezvous at the border, word came that the Russians were baiting Amoss, intending to assassinate Vassily Stalin, kidnap Amoss, brainwash him and Heaven knows what else.

Anyway, the deal didn't come off.

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICES OF FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

CABLE ADDRESS: INFORM BALTIMORE
TELEPHONE: BALTIMORE 7-3039



219 W. MONUMENT STREET
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

28 September 1953

ISI SPECIAL LETTER

L. P. Beria has escaped. As early as 21 July (see ISI Special letter 21 and 23 July) ISI had good reason to believe that the dread police chief had escaped his doom and had safely made his way to the mountain fastnesses of Transcaucasia.

Now, ISI is convinced that the remnant of Georgian domination of the Supreme Soviet has successfully marched through Georgia.

Its conclusion on two things: a dispatch from

SECRET

THIS IS STRICTLY FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

6 March 1953

The now celebrated delivery of a Soviet MIG jet plane at Bornholm, Denmark, was the accomplishment of your ISI.

Working for 5 years on the project, it often seemed to the undersigned Editor and Director of Field Operations that it was an impossible task - and it was a task that cost several lives before its accomplishment.

This letter is a boast - but justifiable because it is not probable that ISI will receive any thanks. But you are entitled to know the facts.

AMES

17 June 1953

SPECIAL ISI LETTER

GEORGI MALENKOV IS DEAD. This is a rumor from ISI sources - repeat, this is a rumor. It is not an established fact. What is a fact is that the pudgy semi-dictator has been held incommunicado for more than a month. For 30 days he has not been heard, he has not been seen, he has not been read.

A fierce, possibly bloody, tussle is under way in the Kremlin.

As ISI has long told you, Russia's peasants and workers are ready to rise.

As ISI has told you, satellite workers are ready to rise - as you read today in the press, they are rising!

This is unfortunate. It is not the time to rise. Our country, or so ISI believes (without having any information from U. S. official sources), has not formulated a firm policy; we do not know and our enslaved friends cannot know just what the deal is.

With acceleration, possibly even a crash.

MALENKOV HYDROGEN-BOMB CLAIM IS WITLESS HYSTERICAL PROPAGANDA.

AMERICA EXPLODES, THEN TALKS. MALENKOV TALKS, DOESN'T EXPLODE.

By cable from London
3 August 1953

JANIS I

I left Dusseldorf amid blazing guns (if one pistol and two shots can be so described) bringing with me critically important original papers uncovering the "deminform" and also the following report which has been confirmed here.

I have received confirmation that Beria was axed primarily because the new Soviet leaders were shocked to find that he was unable to confirm that Russian A-bombs and guided missiles were equal, either quantitatively or qualitatively, to the American. Consequently, the typical Soviet reward for failure was meted out to Beria upon discovery of the bluff - an accusation of sabotage. However, the imminent threat was discovered by Beria's massive intelligence apparatus which enabled him to fade.

"Beria is hiding in the Caucasus and assumed the status of guerrillas after

Here are some excerpts from Colonel Amoss' cloak and dagger intelligence service.

How Col. Amoss Works

Global Private Eye Dwells
In Constant Air of Mystery

By Edward T. Folliard

Post Reporter

(Second in a Series)

Members of the International Services of Information Foundation, a private intelligence service headed by Col. Ulius L. Amoss of Gibson Island, Md., get exciting reading for the \$25 which they contribute annually.

A letter from Amoss to ISI members, dated last June 17, begins:

"GEORGI MALENKOV IS DEAD"

This was news, a real scoop.

But in the next sentence, Amoss hastens to add, "This is a rumor from ISI sources—repeat, this is a rumor. It is not a fact."

Even though there are occasional letdowns, Amoss' reports keep the adventurous spirit running high. Sometimes, people who receive ISI material must fear for a time that the colonel is a goner. Very often, however, it turns out that he wasn't in any danger after all, and is safe, sound and ready for further excitement.

Message Produced Thrill

On July 5, under a dateline reading "By courier from Munich," Colonel Amoss gave his ISI subscribers a thrill with this message:

"I am a virtual prisoner in a Munich hotel. I am not sure that the care 'they' take of me is due to consideration for my safety—or theirs. 'They' even post guards. 'They' won't permit me to go out without protection—and never at night. But when I went to parts I shouldn't mention, they relaxed their guard, apparently considering a danger zone safe enough. It was!

"Last night I returned without having experienced any excitement. But, once in my room, a series of 'shots' startled me; through my window, red flame glowed briefly. I am ashamed to say that I shouted to my friend and personal security officer, 'Keep away from that window!' I am ashamed, because we discovered that the 'shot' were firecracker explosions, set off by German children in honor of our Fourth of July."

After this let-down, Colonel Amoss hurried on in his ISI letter to tell about his meeting with some mysterious members of an "elite underground system."

He also had something to say about his meetings with mysterious men in a recent interview at Gibson Island.

Island Houses GHQ

An 11-room rented house on the island, located on Chesapeake Bay about 23 miles southwest of Annapolis, is the general headquarters of Colonel Amoss' ISI network, although the business office is at 219 W. Monument st., Baltimore.

He is a year-round resident of the island, along with his vivacious English-born wife, the former Veronica Grogan. They met in Cairo during World War II when both were in intelligence work, he for Gen. William J. (Wild Bill) Donovan's Office of Strategic Services and she for the British.

A visitor calling on Col. Amoss on Gibson Island, as all visitors to the privately-owned island, must first be cleared at the gate. Up the road a way is the colonel's house. Guests are taken to his office, just off the living room. It has an impressive atmosphere, suggesting that its occupant has been around.

The walls are covered with autographed pictures. One bears the inscription, "For my friend, Ulius Amoss, Franklin D. Roosevelt." (FDR autographed it when he was Governor of New York). There are two photographs of Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Amoss' deputy chief of staff of the United States Ninth Air Force. One reads: "To Pete (Amoss' nickname) with sincere thanks for his loyal support and excellent counsel, Hoyt S. Vandenberg."

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Amoss served under him as

deputy chief of staff of the United States Ninth Air Force. One reads: "To Pete (Amoss' nickname) with sincere thanks for his loyal support and excellent counsel, Hoyt S. Vandenberg."

Books Indicate Interest

On the bookshelves are volumes that bespeak Col. Amoss' deep interest in espionage: Rebecca West's "The Meaning of Treason," "Stalin by Trotsky," "The Russian Menace to Europe," "The Pattern for World Revolution," "No Secret Is Safe," and "Handbook for Spies."

According to a sketch in the International Who's Who, Amoss was born in St. Louis 58 years ago last July 28. He was a student at the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts in Baltimore. He was a press agent for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1915-16, and after that was sales manager for a Baltimore firm.

In World War I, he was a YMCA secretary with the 79th Division. He was also a YMCA secretary in Greece during a part of the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-21. Thereafter, in 1920-24, he was adviser to the Greek General Staff, a job that seems to have laid the groundwork for his later career as an intelligence man.

Returning to this country from Greece, Amoss was an exporter in New York. He also served with firms like the Condossis Tobacco Co., and the Gramtrade International Corporation.

Served With OSS

He won his rank in World War II, serving with the Air Force and OSS, and is now in the Air Force Reserve.

How did he come to set up his intelligence network?

Well, he explained, he had long felt that the trouble with secret intelligence was that it was too secret. Also, he had made this discovery: that by the time the raw material was processed—correlated with other intelligence, appraised and edited—it often was no longer intelligence but history.

Moreover, Col. Amoss said, he concluded that the American people as a whole were getting no benefit from our official intelligence, except when it was decided to leak something to them so as to formulate public opinion.

Once Col. Amoss gets going about his agents, his annual trips to Europe and the flow of intelligence reports to Gibson Island, things begin to conform to the popular notion

Take, for example, his trip to Europe last summer. He said that he went behind the Iron Curtain and that it was "a simple operation." But his most exciting adventure took place, not in Communist territory, but on this side of the Curtain—in Duesseldorf, Germany.

Someone Shoots at Him

One night he was on his way to the airport to fly to London, he said, when he realized he was being trailed by somebody in another car. A shot came from the pursuer. Then the car drew alongside and there was another shot.

"I got out of the cab," Col. Amoss said, "caught another one and went to the railroad station. There I got a third cab and drove to the airport."

"When I calmed down, I concluded that the shooting was just a demonstration, something to impress me, not an attempt to kill me. Neither shot hit the cab."

He said that just before this he had been talking to a group of men in West Germany. They described themselves as dissidents from the Red Army, but he suspected them of being Soviet agents. He believed that they were responsible for the shots. It was all, he said, an example of "the devious workings of the Slavic mind."

Curiously enough, either Amoss got his cities in Germany mixed up (something an intelligence agent should do only rarely, if at all), or else exactly the same thing happened to him in Munich. For in a piece in The American Weekly on November 8, Amoss describes the identical incident of shots, transfers from one cab to another, etc., but as happening in Munich, not Duesseldorf, just after an abortive effort to kidnap Vasily Stalin.

Letter from Duesseldorf

Col. Amoss showed the reporter a letter he sent to ISI members last summer. The dateline was Duesseldorf; the date July 21.

"Beria," he had written, "has not been arrested. He is in hiding. This is the belief of an always reliable ISI source. This is the conviction of another ISI source, not always reliable."

Col. Amoss, bringing the reporter up to date, was much more positive—much more emphatic. Right now, he said, Beria definitely is out of Russia and is alive, at least as of

(COVER)

He then went on to tell of an adventure that befell him in Munich last summer, saying:

"A man came to me. He represented himself as a major in the Russian Security Police. He said he was representing Beria, and presented a card signed with Beria's name. He said he had been authorized to ask me whether Beria, if he escaped would get sanctuary anywhere in the West.

"I said I couldn't give him an official answer. But I said that if Beria was willing to give information, unquestionably he would get sanctuary.

Major Was 'Satisfied'

"The major said, 'Well, I'm satisfied,' and left."

Colonel Amoss said he could state as "a fact" that Beria sent five of his most trusted lieutenants out of the country when he got worried about his own life.

"They had instructions," he said, "that if anything happened to him (Beria) they were to turn papers over to Western agents.

"Beria himself faded. He went to the mountains of Transcaucasia, of which his native Georgia is a part. It was then that the Kremlin denounced him. He eventually got out of Transcaucasia.

"Now evidently he was still in the mountains when this major called on me in Munich. At least, I believe he was. Since Beria got out, additional facts have been learned.

"They have taken a dummy Beria from Tiflis, capital of Georgia, and he has been trained and secretly sent to Moscow. He is being held in a prison operated by the Defense Department, not the MVD. The trial material for this dummy Beria has been completed, and orders have been issued to send him back to Georgia to stand trial. I say they have been issued; whether they have actually been sent, I don't know.

Comic Feature Related

"There is a comic feature to all this. Beria has learned about the scheme. He doesn't like it. That is why he sent



By Harry Goodwin—The Washington Post

Colonel Ullus L. Amoss, head of a private intelligence network, relaxes at his Gibson

Island, Md., home. The photos are mostly of military men with whom Amoss served.

the major to see me. If they go through with the farcical trial, he will tell his lieutenants to turn over the papers to Western agents.

"I am waiting now on instructions as to whether I am to go over and get them or not."

He said the Beria papers "allegedly" contained information about Russia's atomic energy program.

If it turns out that Beria really has escaped—and especially if he unmask himself somewhere in the West—Amoss will be a hero. If, on the other hand, the Russians announce that they have executed Beria, Amoss will be able to point out that long ago he predicted that a "dummy" would be put on trial and executed.

TOMORROW: Lieutenant Jarecki and his MIG-15.

How Col. Amoss Works

Global Private Eye Did—
Or Didn't—Help Pole's Flight

By Edward T. Folliard

Post Reporter

(The Last of a Series)

Col. Ulius L. Amoss, director of operations of a private intelligence-gathering organization called International Services of Information Foundation (ISI), first gained national newspaper notice in connection with the flight of a Russian MIG-15 to the West.

A Polish lieutenant, Franciszek Jarecki, escaped with the undamaged jet, said to be the first to fall into Allied hands. The story published back in March was that former Gov. Preston Lane of Maryland and some others, working with Colonel Amoss, put up something like \$10,000 to bring about the coup. (Colonel Amoss said that the sum actually was \$7500.)

Lieutenant Jarecki, when he visited Washington in May, was emphatic in denying that he got any American help in his escape. He said he had first heard rumors of such help when he was in Copenhagen.

"I got no help from anyone," he said. "Even my dearest friends didn't know what I was going to do."

Colonel Amoss said the Polish flier was telling the truth as he saw it.

Colonel Amoss has sharply revised the story of his part

in Lieutenant Jarecki's escape. At first, in a letter to ISI subscribers, he stated flatly, as a "boast"—the word is Amoss'—that the delivery of the MIG was "the accomplishment" of his intelligence network.

Some time later, the claims were considerably milder.

Now, after the passage of some weeks, Colonel Amoss contents himself with the more modest claim that his ISI created "a psychosis of escape" among Polish fliers.

"Caught Us Off Base"

"Jarecki had never been in touch with my agents," he said. "The story broke very unfortunately and caught us off base. I could show you a telegram that arrived one hour after Lieutenant Jarecki landed on the island of Bornholm."

"If Lieutenant Jarecki wants to say I had nothing to do with his escape," Colonel Amoss said "I won't challenge him."

Amoss' first "secret" letter, boasting of the MIG escape, got into the hands of newspapermen, naturally, and soon the story was on the wires. They learned that former Governor Lane and others had turned over the money to Amoss.

Former Governor Lane is reluctant to talk for publication about the matter now, but he told The Post this:

"We did put up expense money for the purpose of getting a MIG out. One came out. As a matter of fact, another has come out of the same hole."

There was some cause for worry about the original story, in its possible effect on the Danish Government, and on the efforts of American experts to examine the MIG that was flown to Denmark's island of Bornholm.

Chances Improved

The chances of Americans going over the jet plane, it would seem, would be better if it appeared that Lieutenant Jarecki had flown out as he insisted that he did — on his own and without any outside aid. Denmark would thus not be in the position of seeming to have been part of a plot. Conversely, Denmark would be less likely to cooperate if she felt that she was subject to a Russian accusation of aiding and abetting a scheme engineered by an American intelligence organization — even a private one.

In an interview, Colonel Amoss was reminded that some people are skeptical

"That's an understatement," he said, somewhat wryly.

He showed he was well aware of what had been said about him. He referred to a recent article in a news magazine wherein, he said, an unidentified official of the Defense Department said he was "a total loss" and an unidentified official of the Central Intelligence Agency was quoted as saying he "never knew Amoss to be right."

Tells Off Detractors

Colonel Amoss, up to this point, good-humored despite the fact that he had undergone dental surgery the day before, now girded himself to tell off his detractors, saying: "Any so-called official of the United States Government who, under the cloak of anonymity, attacks the competence or reputation of an American citizen is at the least a coward."

"And what the official in question might have meant was not that he had never known me to be right, but that he had never known me to be left."

"I forecast the outbreak in Korea a month before it came. And my forecast was right within two days."

"I was right within a week in saying when the Chinese would come into the Korean war. And somebody in the Central Intelligence Agency was telling MacArthur that the Chinese were not coming into the Korean war."

"On January 2, 1953, I stated in writing that Stalin was through and that the Red Army had taken control. The people of the United States didn't hear that from the CIA. They had to wait until March when Moscow itself announced it and said that Amoss was right."

"I predicted the Mau Mau outbreaks in Africa 18 months before they came."

"There are dozens and dozens of these things, but I don't want to burden your article."

Hide Behind Anonymity

"You hear a lot about character assassination, but the people they attack the most for this are speaking publicly under their own names. There is an awful lot of fuss about McCarthy, Jenner and McCarran, accusing them of character assassination. But they speak out under their own names."

"Here you have men hiding behind anonymity and making an attack upon a patriotic enterprise."

"I have been shot at, threatened, and this termite is sitting behind the safety of anonymity and sniping at a private citizen trying to help the country."

Colonel Amoss said he didn't know what was aggravating his critics—whether they were "just eaten up by jealousy," or what.

"I don't presume to be a genius," he went on. "I wouldn't even claim to be a Russian expert. But I've got Russian experts working for me, and they make me look good."

His attention was called to his earlier remark about the ISI being "a patriotic enterprise."

Certainly he thought it was, he said, and went on to add:

"I wouldn't be taking this financial beating if I didn't. I've spent my money and my wife's money in a small effort to contribute to the safety of the United States."

Hopes for Salary

He said he received no salary from the ISI and that the organization paid only 3 percent of his travel expenses. At another point, he said:

"I hope one day to get a salary from the foundation. I've made myself broke in this thing."

Reading several of Amoss' letters and reports to ISI members is a pretty exciting business.

You find out, for example, that "Pontecorvo's (Dr. Bruno Pontecorvo, the Italian scientist who went behind the Iron Curtain) 'Cosmic Ray' does not work against high-flying planes." This "Cosmic Ray," Amoss explains, "is a combination of negative and positive electrical impulses supposed to reduce a plane to a cinder at the apex of the joined beams."

There is other comforting information. As of last June 30, "European intelligence experts do not believe that Russia has an effective atom bomb."

There is evidence of ISI's effectiveness, too. Amoss reported by cable from London on July 12 that ISI's "revelation of the rumors concerning Malenkov's fate in a previous article was sensationally received overseas and widely disseminated. The story forced the Red authorities to produce or, perhaps, reproduce him." But, "liberated or recreated, Malenkov is not long for this world."

In March, 1952, ISI reported that Stalin was being advised by the Politburo to retire, and said that the need to protect his health from overwork would be used as the "official pretext." A month later, Amoss was still warning his readers against "fake stories of Stalin's ill health."

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that "these are times for cool heads and accurate appraisal of Soviet abilities."

Then, on August 11, comforting news came from agent Janisi in Aachen: "Supreme Soviet secretly decided abandon further armed aggression for the present."

"Preparations Intensified"

Similarly, on September 14, Amoss told his subscribers, "Soviet preparations for a change-over from military aggression to world revolution are being intensified and will be greatly expanded."

But on October 26, the word was: "Soviet Russia is flexing her military muscles."

And two days later, "Soviet war preparations must be taken seriously. 1959 is a possible target date."

ISI subscribers received sound advice from the colonel last March 4: "Meanwhile—don't believe anything you read about Soviet Russia as sure."

The Post reporter, in interviewing Colonel Amoss in his Gibson Island office, happened to pick up an old special letter. He thought for a moment that he had found evidence that the ISI chief was fallible, just like ordinary folk.

The intelligence item, which Colonel Amoss sent out in March, 1952, said that Stalin was going to retire and be succeeded by Molotov.

Had he stubbed his toe on that one? Had one of his agents overseas, perhaps, passed on some misinformation?

"No," Colonel Amoss said very seriously. "That really was the plan, but it went awry."

Insight on Changes

But by January, Amoss revealed that Stalin had suffered a stroke, and has been boasting of this three-month beat on the CIA ever since.

Amoss' reports give one an insight on how quickly and erratically plans change inside the Kremlin.

For example, early this year, on January 21, Amoss reported from London, "No war for a long time—except in various areas."

But only a month later, in an "Urgent" letter, he disclosed: "The next ten months will be critical—dangerous. According to present plan: Soviet Russia will mobilize her armed forces on a war basis within this period. THIS WILL BE A BLUFF (to frighten Western nations into pressuring America to deal with the Reds). But—the bluff may miscarry." The colonel warns

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

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TATOTHR

DATE

8/14/58

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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